

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action date February 11, 2003, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by May 11, 2003.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 474 904 B1 to Fiedler et al. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,268,607 to McManus.

Turning first to the objections to the specification, the specification has been amended to add appropriate headings.

With regard to the rejection of the claims under Section 102, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the present invention over the cited references to Fielder and McManus. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define that the pole cover can be combined with various housings (3), and wherein for combining the pole cover with the various housings (3), at least partially various receptacles (5, 12) on the pole cover (2) cooperate with corresponding counterreceptacles on the housing (3) by means of fasteners (4). The Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the cited references discloses or suggests the combination of features of amended claim 1.

Indeed, the Applicants respectfully disagree that the cited references either disclose or suggest the present invention as defined in the claims. The

patent to Fiedler discloses an electric motor with a motor housing, which comprises a pole cover (1) and a drive housing (2). The German term "Poltopf" always relates to a housing part, which accommodates the magnetic pole as well as the rotor, which rotates the magnetic pole in the magnetic field. With regard to the connection of the pole cover with the drive housing, Fielder only discloses in column 4, line 52, that the drive housing closes at the commutator- or brush holder-side end of the motor housing (1) (claim 1). In addition, Figure 1 shows two screws as connecting elements, whereby neither receptacles (5) in the pole cover nor counterreceptacles in the drive housing are shown. The drive housing 2 in Fielder corresponds to the housing (3) closing off the pole cover in the present invention, since it can also accommodate the electronic in addition to the drive.

Fielder discloses only one pole cover and only one type of drive housing. The subject matter of the present invention, however, has a pole cover that can be combined with different types of housings (3) closing off the pole cover. Thus, for example, Figs. 2a and 2b show two different housings (3) closing off the pole cover, one with four counterreceptacles (6), and in Fig. 2b, with three counterreceptacles (6). Both housings (3) can be connected alternatively with the pole cover (2), whereby, in this connection, the pole cover (2) according to Figs. 3a and 3b is rotated about 180°. For the combination of the pole cover (2) with the housings (3) according to Fig. 2a, the four receptacles (5) are provided in the corner points with connecting elements (4). For the connection with the housings (3) closing off the pole cover (2) according to Fig. 2b, two receptacles

(5) of the pole cover (2) in the corner points are left unassigned, instead, however, the receptacles (12) in the center between the two corners are provided with a connecting element (4). This detail is described in the specification on page 7, lines 6—9 and lines 20-23.

Fielder provides no suggestion for such a combination of a pole cover with different housing parts. Likewise, the Applicants do not see where Fielder, for example, discloses the subject matter of claim 2, that the pole cover has more receptacles (5) than the counterreceptacles (6) on the housing (3) closing the pole cover, since with fielder, no suggestion is made of any receptacles or counterreceptacles.

The patent to McManus likewise shows an electric motor with a pole cover (12), which is connected with a drive housing part (26). For connections, the flange of the pole cover has receptacles and the flange of the housing part 26 has counterreceptacles, which are connected by means of connecting elements (screws). There, McManus discloses only one type of housing part 26, so that also here, no suggestion can be found that a pole cover 12 can be combined with different housing types with different arrangements of counterreceptacles. Thus, claim 1 is also not anticipated by the McManus patent.

For purposes of clarity, the Applicants have amended Figs. 3a through 3c and Fig. 4 to make clear that all openings for the connecting elements 4 in the pole cover are designated as "receptacles 5", while reference numeral 12 refers only to a special receptacle in the center between the corners of a rectangle.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are indeed patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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